TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION....11
1. The Paippalādasaṃhitā of the Atharvaveda....11
1.1 Overview of the history of research....11
1.2 Kāṇḍa 17 and the three 'new' anuvākas....12
2. Materials for the constitution of the text....14
2.1 The manuscripts and the history of transmission....14
2.1.1 The Kashmirian tradition....14
2.1.2 The Odisha Tradition....15
2.1.2.1 Description of the Odia manuscripts....15
2.1.2.2 The **O**^{A} and **O**^{B} subgroups....19
2.1.3 Evidence for the Odia hyparchetype *B....25
2.3.4 Evidence for the PS archetype *G....26
2.2 Orthography....26
2.3 Sandhi....27
2.3.1 The spelling *duṣvápnyam* vs. *duḥsvápnyam*....28
2.4 Spelling mistakes....33
2.5 Punctuation in the mss....33
3. Presentation of the text....34
3.1 Layout of the edition....34
3.2 Editorial signs in the edited text....35
3.3 The critical apparatus....35
3.4 Metrical analysis....36

PART I – Anuvāka 3 (PS 17.12–15): Against Sadānuvās....39
Introduction....41
Sūkta 12....53
Sūkta 13....78
Sūkta 14....99
Sūkta 15....119

PART II – Anuvāka 5 (PS 17.21–26): Curses and nightmares....137
Introduction....139
Synopsis....139
Kāṇḍikā 21....143
Kāṇḍikā 22....155
Kāṇḍikā 23....172
Kāṇḍikā 24....179
Kāṇḍikā 25....196
Kāṇḍikā 26....208

PART III – Anuvāka 6 (PS 17.27–43): The observance of the draft-ox....215
Introduction....217
Synopsis....219
Language and style....222
Kāṇḍikā 27....234
Kāṇḍikā 28....240
Kāṇḍikā 29....264
Kāṇḍikā 30....266
Kāṇḍikā 31....271
Kāṇḍikā 32....273

Kāṇḍikā 33....275
Kāṇḍikā 34....276
Kāṇḍikā 35....282
Kāṇḍikā 36....292
Kāṇḍikā 37....294
Kāṇḍikā 38....297
Kāṇḍikā 39....301
Kāṇḍikā 40....303
Kāṇḍikā 41....307
Kāṇḍikā 42....310
Kāṇḍikā 43....313

APPENDIX I – The Indo-European and Vedic Vrātya origins of the *pāśupatavrata*....319
1. The Pāśupata cult....321
2. The purpose of the *anaḍudvrata*/*govrata*: stealing merit....324
3. The transfer of merit....325
4. Early Vedic Vrātya culture as a model for later cultural phenomena....327
5. The Indo-European *Männerbund*....329
6. The Vedic Vrātyas....333
7. The persistence of cultural traits....336
8. Evidence for animal *vratás* of the Vrātyas and other animal *vratás* in Śaiva cults....337
9. Trick or treat....341
10. Evidence of an institutionalised *sakraler Stehlrecht* in Vrātya culture....343
11. Conclusions....351
12. Table: The development of cultural traits from Indo-European culture to Vedic culture and later Śaivism. 353

APPENDIX II – A new interpretation of the Atharvavedic Hymn to the draft-ox (ŚS 4.11 ~ PS 3.25) with a new critical edition of the Paippalāda version....355
1. Introduction....357
1.1 The Anaḍutsava....357
1.2 Previous interpretations....359
1.3 Acharya's archaic *govrata*....360
1.4 The structure of the hymn....362
2. A new critical edition of PS 3.25....363
2.1 First section....364
2.2 The ŚS additional prose passage....375
2.3 Second section....377
2.4 The additional PS portions....383
3. Interpretation....385
3.1 The *gharmásya vratá*....385
3.2 The pillar of fire....390
3.3 The *sukr̥tásya loká*....392
3.4 The twelve *vrátyā* nights of Prajāpati....397
3.5 The role of Indra....403
3.6 The ploughman....406

ABBREVIATIONS....409
BIBLIOGRAPHY....411
SUMMARY....443
SAMENVATTING....445
CURRICULUM VITAE....447